

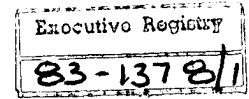
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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510



March 11, 1983

83-0651/A

The Honorable John N. McMahon
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505


Dear John:

Under the provisions of Senate Resolution 400, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is charged with the responsibility "to oversee and make continuing studies of the intelligence activities and programs of the United States Government, and to...report to the Senate concerning such intelligence activities and programs."

Most of the work of the Committee is, of necessity, conducted in secret. Nonetheless, the Committee believes that intelligence activities should be as accountable as possible. Therefore, the Committee has routinely published an unclassified report of its oversight activities every two years since its establishment in the spring of 1976.

Enclosed for your information is the most recent copy of this report, covering the oversight activities of the Select Committee on Intelligence during the 97th Congress (January 1, 1981 to December 31, 1982). I recommend it to you and would welcome any comments which you might want to offer regarding it.

Sincerely,


Barry Goldwater
Chairman

Enclosures





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of America

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No. 22

Senate

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMIT- TEE ON INTELLIGENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise to join the Senator from Arizona, Senator GOLDWATER, the distinguished chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, in submitting this report of the committee's activities during the 97th Congress.

As vice chairman of the select committee for those 2 years, I believe the report accurately reflects the work done by the committee.

The report is important because it is an opportunity for the Senate and the public to get some sense of the nature of the committee's oversight of the intelligence community. It is also important in that its compilation forces the committee to see where it has been these past 2 years and, implicitly, where it is headed.

We do well to recall the situation in 1976 when the select committee was established. Investigations had revealed that our intelligence agencies abused their authority. In addition, the intelligence community had experienced a 40-percent reduction in personnel in the previous decade. Yet the world was becoming an increasingly dangerous place as the Soviet Union was engaging in an unprecedented military buildup and the Third World presented new challenges to the interests of the United States. Not surprisingly, questions were raised about the ability of the CIA and its sister agencies to supply the President and his advisers the kind of information they need to steer a prudent course for American foreign policy.

During may 6 years on the committee, we have concentrated our efforts on two major tasks. The first of these was to establish effective mechanisms for insuring that the intelligence community stays within the bounds of the law and common decency. The second was to provide the resources necessary for rebuilding our intelligence capabilities. It is to be hoped that the readers of this report will cull from its somewhat cryptic and numerous pages a sense that these tasks are in large part being accomplished.

Mr. President, in 1972, I observed that the public life of our age seems dominated by the unexpected and the unforeseen, while the task of governing seems increasingly that of imposing some measure of order on this less than cosmic chaos. I referred to the task as one of coping—of striving or contending on equal terms with a measure of success. While my remarks then concerned the practice of Government in general, they are entirely applicable to the experience of the Select Committee on Intelligence. I think it can fairly be said that the committee has coped well with the issues it has addressed. But in citing the committee's accomplishments, there is no intent to imply a sense of complacency. Oversight is not a static process. We have lain only the first blocks in the reconstruction of our intelligence community, not the final edifice. We are still a young committee, and during its less than 7 years tenure, there has been a continual effort to identify ways to improve our oversight. This is the spirit in which the members of the committee will continue their work in the 98th Congress.